

- (b) blocking all exposed metal binding sites remaining after A $\beta$  capture with a blocker;
- (c) contacting the first complex, which has been passed through step (b), with a[n] polyclonal antibody specific for A $\beta$  peptide to form a second complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A $\beta$  peptide/polyclonal antibody specific for A $\beta$  peptide;
- (d) labelling the second complex to form a detectable third complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A $\beta$  peptide/polyclonal antibody specific for A $\beta$  peptide/label; and
- (e) detecting the third complex, and quantifying A $\beta$  peptide which may be present in the candidate solution.

2. (Once amended) An [diagnostic] assay for detecting [and/]or quantifying A $\beta$  peptide which may be present in a candidate solution, comprising:

- (a) contacting the candidate solution with a solid support with a heavy metal cation immobilized thereon to capture A $\beta$  peptide on the surface of the solid support, thereby forming a first complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A $\beta$  peptide;
- (b) blocking all exposed metal binding sites remaining after A $\beta$  capture with a blocker;
- (c) contacting the first complex, which has been passed through step (b), with a[n] polyclonal antibody specific for A $\beta$  peptide, called A $\beta$  antibody, to form a second complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A $\beta$  peptide/A $\beta$  antibody;

*concluded*

(d) contacting said second complex with one or more anti-antibodies specific to the A $\beta$  antibody to form a third complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A $\beta$  peptide/A $\beta$  antibody/one or more anti-antibodies;

(e) labelling said third complex to form a detectable fourth complex which comprises solid support/heavy metal cation/A $\beta$  peptide/A $\beta$  antibody/one or more anti-antibodies/label; and

(f) detecting the fourth complex, thereby quantifying A $\beta$  peptide which may be present in the candidate solution.

Please amend claims 3-16, 18-22, 24-26 and 28-30 as follows:

- ✓ Claims 3-16, line 1, please delete "A diagnostic" and replace with --The--.
- ✓ Claims 18-22, line 1, please delete "A" and replace with --The--.
- ✓ Claims 24-26, line 1, please delete "A" and replace with --The--.
- ✓ Claims 28-30, line 1, please delete "A" and replace with --The--.

### **Remarks**

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-34 are pending in the application, with 1, 2, 31 and 32 being the independent claims.

### **Explanation of Amendments**

The specification has been amended for clarity and to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite "[a]n assay" in place of "[a] diagnostic assay."  
Claims 3-16, 18-22, 24-26 and 28-30 have been amended to recite "[t]he assay" or "[t]he kit" in place of "[a] assay" or "[a] kit," respectively.